

REPLY

The Examiner objected to claims 23 and 27 in that "the occurrence of a goal" does not have an antecedent and "goal" was not defined in the claim language. Claims 23 and 27 have been amended to recite "an occurrence" and "goal" has been effectively defined as when the ball passes a goal line advancing a score in the ball game.

The Examiner also rejected claims 23-27 as failing to comply with the written description requirement in the reciting of "within said external spherical covering and conforming to a portion of the internal surface". This language has been deleted from the claims and therefore the Examiner's rejection is obviated. The Examiner also objected to the phrase "between". The word "between" has been replaced with the more appropriate word "adjacent". Therefore, it is believed that the Examiner's objections and rejections should now be obviated.

The Examiner rejected claims 23-27 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over King Jr. (US 2002/0054905) in view of Spector (US RE 30,103).

King Jr. discloses a ball transmitter 40 embedded under the outer skin of the ball 12. Sensor/transmitters 80 are placed within cones 82 within both of the field end zones 202. Out-of-

bounds cone mounted sensors 114 are optionally placed along the field boundaries.

Spector discloses a chemi-luminescent device 11 inserted into an inflatable globe. An open-ended cylindrical duct 13 extends diametrically through the globe 10 holding the chemi-luminescent device 11.

Independent claim 23 has been amended to more clearly recite the invention of an electronically detectable ball and the structure for attaching the passive detectable electronic location sensor. Claim 23 has been amended to recite at least one strap drawn or formed in the bladder and that the passive detectable electronic location sensor is fixed to the bladder by the at least one strap. Support for the recited more specific structure can be found on page 7, lines 18-21 of the specification and in Fig. 8 of the application. In King, Jr. the four ball transmitters 42 are distributed over the ball 12 outer surface. The ball computer chip 44 is on the outside surface of the inner air tube lobe 48 and secured with a special glue.

(King, Jr., paragraph 0040) Figs. 8-12 in King, Jr. provide no additional indication of the structural attachment of the four ball transmitters 42, which appear on the outer surface of ball 12. King, Jr. does not disclose at least one strap drawn in the bladder holding the sensor fixed to the bladder by the at least one strap. Similarly, Spector does not disclose at least one

strap drawn or formed in the bladder. Therefore, even if combined, this claimed structure would not be formed. Additionally, the structure disclosed in Spector relating to a chemi-luminescent device would not be applicable to an electronically detectable ball as in the present invention.

Independent claim 27 has been similarly amended and recites more specifically a sensor support comprising a plurality of straps and that the passive detectable electronic location sensor is formed into and fixed inside the sensor support by the plurality of straps.

New dependent claims 28 and 29 additionally recite that the strap, straps or sensor support are created during the phase of press of said bladder. Support for new dependent claims 28 and 29 can be found on page 7, line 19 of the specification.

New dependent claim 30 recites additional structure for the plurality of straps and specifically two straps separated by a distance and having opposing ends of each of the two straps attached to the bladder.

New independent claim 31 has been added to more specifically recite the structure and features of the present invention.

While the broad concept of using a computer chip or transmitter placed on a ball is known, many of the known prior devices are complicated and require substantial modifications to existing equipment. The present invention is a simple flexible

structure that provides significant advantages over the more complicated prior art. This more specific structure, as recited in the amended and new claims, provides flexibility in attaching the passive detectable electronic location sensor inside a ball and yet securely holds the relatively light weight passive detectable electronic location sensor within the ball.

All of the amended and new claims read on the elected invention drawn to an electronically detectable ball. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the present application enter this Amendment and Reply and indicate allowable subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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